



Does the Town Take Yard Waste?

The Town has a yard waste center on Old Main Street that accepts leaves and brush. It is open on select Wednesdays and Saturdays in the summer and fall.

Residents can purchase a punch-card for \$15 from the Collector's Office at Town Hall. This allows 5 vehicle trips per card to the Yard Waste Center.

Grass clippings and stumps will not be accepted and commercial vehicles are not allowed. Photo ID is required for entry to show you are a Wilmington resident.

Curbside pick-up of yard waste is also available on pre-determined dates.

For More Info Contact:

Department of Public Works

115 Andover Street

(978) 658-4481

www.wilmingtonma.gov/trash-recycling

For More Composting Tips, Visit:

- EPA
www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home
- MassDEP
www.state.ma.us/dep
- Mass Audubon
www.massaudubon.org

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Town of Wilmington
121 Glen Road
Wilmington, MA 01887



COMPOSTING YOUR YARD & KITCHEN WASTE

*How to Reuse Your Grass
Clippings, Leaves and Table
Scraps for a Better Garden
and Cleaner Community*



What Are the Benefits of Composting?

Composting creates a valuable supplement to add to your garden. Compost adds nutrient-rich humus, which fuels plant growth and restores vitality to depleted soil. It's free, easy to make, and good for the environment.

What Can Be Composted?

- ✓ *Fruit & vegetable scraps*
- ✓ *Eggshells*
- ✓ *Leaves & grass clippings*
- ✓ *Garden plants and weeds*
- ✓ *Shrub clippings*
- ✓ *Straw/hay*
- ✓ *Pine needles*
- ✓ *Wood ash & wood chips*
- ✓ *Coffee grounds & tea bags*
- ✓ *Scrap paper*
- ✓ *Cardboard & newspaper*
- ✓ *Dryer lint*
- ✓ *Saw dust*

How to Make a Compost Pile

1. **Build or purchase a compost bin.** Wilmington DPW sells compost bins. Bins can also be purchased from a garden center or hardware store. Enclosed bins keep out pests and have a neater appearance or you can make your own from wire, wood pallets, concrete blocks or trash bins with holes drilled in them.
2. **Set up the bin** in a convenient, shady area with good drainage. A larger pile (3 sq. ft. by 3 ft. tall) will help maintain heat generated by composting organisms through the winter, though a smaller pile will still compost.
3. **Start the pile** with a layer of coarse material, like corn stalks, to build in air passages. Add alternating layers of wet and dry materials and sprinkle with soil every 12 inches. Food scraps should be buried in the center of the pile.
4. **Add water** if materials are too dry. The compost pile must be damp or it won't decompose.
5. **Turn your pile** frequently with a shovel or hoe to aerate the pile and shorten composting time.



Why Not Dump Yard Waste in the Woods or Wetlands?

While lawn clippings and yard trimmings are natural, piles of them do not decompose rapidly, may destroy the underlying vegetation, can damage tree roots and prevent new tree and shrub growth. Dumped yard waste also results in displaced habitat for wildlife.

Additionally, runoff from grass clippings carries lawn fertilizers and pesticides into local drinking water supplies, like the Ipswich River Headwaters. This is why proper yard waste disposal is so important.

Keep in mind that it is unlawful to dispose of yard waste along roadsides or on Town land and it is illegal to dump in wetlands.